

ALASKA DEPARTMENT OF FISH AND GAME

DIVISION OF COMMERCIAL FISHERIES

NEWS RELEASE



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2012 Yukon River Summer Salmon Fishery News Release #19

Summer Announcement #15, Lower Yukon Subsistence Fishing Schedule

Districts Affected: Lower Yukon Area

The Chinook salmon run continues to track considerably below historical averages. The Pilot Station sonar cumulative passage estimate of approximately 40,410 Chinook salmon through June 26 is well below the historical average of 96,100 for this date, and is also below the average passage estimates at this point for late run years, of approximately 60,630.

Consistent with preseason management strategies, subsistence salmon fishing periods have been cancelled in the lower river districts to protect the first pulse and similar actions are being implemented in the upriver fishing districts based on migratory timing. Based on the current assessment information, additional measures are being implemented to protect the second pulse of Chinook salmon. The next subsistence salmon fishing period in District 1 is being reduced from a 36-hour subsistence salmon fishing period to a 12-hour subsistence fishing period to conserve Chinook salmon while providing some opportunity for subsistence fishermen to target summer chum salmon.

Coastal District: In the northern portion of the Coastal District from 62 degrees North latitude to Point Romanof, subsistence salmon fishing is currently closed. The northern portion of the Coastal District will reopen at 8:00 p.m. Friday, June 29 for a 12-hour subsistence salmon fishing period. Subsistence salmon fishing in the northern portion of the Coastal District will be open from 8:00 p.m. Friday, June 29, until 8:00 a.m. Saturday, June 30. Additionally, gillnets are restricted to 6-inch or smaller mesh size in the northern portion of the Coastal District to conserve Chinook salmon while allowing fishermen the opportunity to harvest summer chum

salmon. The department will notify fishermen by Wednesday, July 1, concerning subsistence salmon fishing opportunity in the northern portion of the Coastal District.

In the southern portion of the Coastal District, from the Naskonat Peninsula north to 62° North latitude, the subsistence salmon fishing schedule is open 7 days per week, 24 hours a day. Gillnets are restricted to 6-inch or smaller mesh size in the southern portion of the Coastal District to conserve Chinook salmon while allowing fishermen the opportunity to harvest summer chum salmon.

District 1: Subsistence salmon fishing in District 1, which includes the Black River, is currently closed. District 1 will reopen at 8:00 p.m. Friday, June 29. This will be a 12-hour subsistence salmon fishing period, from 8:00 p.m. Friday, June 29, until 8:00 a.m. Saturday, June 30. Gillnets are restricted to 6-inch or smaller mesh size to conserve Chinook salmon while allowing fishermen the opportunity to harvest summer chum salmon. The department will notify fishermen by July 1 concerning the next subsistence salmon fishing period and schedule for District 1.

District 2: Subsistence salmon fishing in District 2 is closed, and will remain closed during the next subsistence salmon fishing period which was scheduled to begin 8:00 p.m. Wednesday, June 27. The department will notify fishermen by June 30 concerning the next subsistence salmon fishing period and schedule for District 2.

District 3: District 3 is closed and will remain closed during the subsistence salmon fishing period which was scheduled to begin 8:00 p.m. Wednesday, June 27. The department will notify fishermen by June 30 concerning the next subsistence salmon fishing period and schedule for District 3.

Fishermen in Districts 1, 2, and 3 should stand by for short notice news releases on VHF and radio regarding changes to the subsistence salmon fishing schedules in these districts.

Innoko River: Subsistence salmon fishing is open 7 days per week, 24 hours a day. Gillnets are restricted to 6-inch or smaller mesh size to conserve Chinook salmon.

During subsistence salmon fishing closures, gillnets with a mesh size greater than four inches and a length greater than 60 feet must be removed from the water.

Recorded fishery announcements and updates will be available 24 hours a day at 949-1731 or 1-866-479-7387. If you have any questions regarding this report, please call the Emmonak ADF&G office at 949-1320 or U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service at 949-1798. The Emmonak ADF&G office will stand by on VHF channel 7A.

This has been an announcement by the Alaska Department of Fish and Game in cooperation with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service.

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